

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification by replacing the first full paragraph of Section 5.2, corresponding to lines 3-15 on page 18 of the specification, with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention relates to the transfer of nucleic acid molecules encoding biologically active proteins capable of inhibiting IL-1 β into β cells. Such nucleic acid molecules include but are not limited to those encoding IL-1Ra, ~~NF- κ B~~ NF- κ B inhibitor, AP1 inhibitor, soluble forms of the IL-1R, mutant forms of the fas or FADD protein, IGF-1, the cowpox crmA protein, members of the bcl-2 family such as Bcl-2 and Bcl-XL. The nucleic acid molecules encoding such proteins are known in the art and can be isolated from a variety of different sources including but not limited to vertebrate, mammalian and human sources without undue experimentation, by molecular biological techniques well known in the art. For example, the DNA may be obtained from cloned DNA (e.g., a DNA "library"), by chemical synthesis, by cDNA cloning, or by the cloning of genomic DNA, or fragments thereof, purified from the desired cell (See, for example, Sambrook et al., 1989, Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual, 2d Ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York Glover, D.M. (ed.), 1985, DNA Cloning: A Practical Approach MRL Press, Ltd., Oxford, U.K. Vol. I, II).